

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
    INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
    USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 /089 W  
    ----- 106458 /12

R 130632Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3881  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1549

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LY, UR, XF  
SUBJ: QADHAFI VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. QADHAFI RETURNED TO TRIPOLI AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 9  
AND WAS RECEIVED WITH FULL HONORS AT THE TRIPOLI  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BY PRIME MINISTER AND VARIOUS  
OFFICIALS OF THE LAR. PRESS ACCOUNTS CLAIM DIPLOMATIC  
CORPS WAS ALSO PRESENT BUT NONE OF THE WESTERN  
COUNTRIES STATIONED IN TRIPOLI WERE ON HAND OR WERE  
EVEN NOTIFIED OF ARRIVAL CEREMONIES.

2. FROM TRIPOLI VIEWPOINT WE WOULD COMMENT ON TWO  
MAJOR ASPECTS OF VISIT. FIRST, QADHAFI'S SPEECH AT  
KREMLIN BANQUET IN RESPONSE TO PODGORNYY AND SECONDLY,  
FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

3. IN OUR VIEW SPEECH (VERSION RELEASED IN TRIPOLI)  
WAS NOTABLE FOR FOLLOWING REASONXTC  
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A. QADHAFI MADE CLEAR THAT WHILE LIBYA WAS NOT OPPOSED TO FORTHCOMING GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS ON PALESTINE QUESTION, HE DID NOT ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SUCH CONFERENCES. HE NOTED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE RESULTS OF SUCH CONFERENCE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BACKED BY THE ARABS WOULD CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE UNTIL VICTORY AND LIBERATION OF LANDS FROM RASCISTS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

B. QADHAFI MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS STILL NOT SATISFIED WITH RELATIONS BETWEEN MAJOR POWERS AND SMALL COUNTRIES, NOTING THAT THESE RELATIONS WERE OFTEN BASED ON ARROGANCE AND DISPARAGEMENT.

C. QADHAFI TOOK OCCASION TO VIGOROUSLY ATTACK BASIC U.S. POLICIES TOWARD MIDDLE EAST BUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEE THE LIGHT.

D. HE AGAIN EMPHASIZED HIS PLAN FOR MEDITERREAN PEACE ZONE AND CLAIMED THAT THE USSR WAS WILLING TO WITHDRAW ITS NAVAL FORCES FROM REGION BUT THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE SINCE THE U.S. WAS NOT WILLING TO DO SO.

E. IN SPEAKING OF BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN THE ARAB NATION AND THE SOVIET UNION QADHAFI NO DOUBT WAS REFERRING TO CURRENT STRAIN IN RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND EGYPT/SYRIA.

4. LENGTHY FINAL COMMUNIQUE HAVE LIBYANS AND SOVIETS IN AGREEMENT ON ALMOST EVERY TOPIC. WE SEE LITTLE NEW IN THIS COMMUNIQUE BUT NOTE THAT THE AGREEMENT ON SEA NAVIGATION MAY BE THE OPENING FOR INCREASED FACILITIES FOR SOVIET SHIPPING IN LIBYAN PORTS. IN REAFFIRMING ADHERENCE TO THE UN AND ITS POSITIVE ROLE IN ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL PEACE, QADHAFI APPARENTLY FELT COMPELLED TO DROP HIS LONG STANDING OBJECTIONS OF THE VETO PROVISIONS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

5. QADHAFI'S VISIT IN OUR VIEW SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS OF DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT IN LIBYAN-SOVIET RELATIONS, BUT  
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RATHER A NEW HIGH POINT IN THE UNINTERRUPTED EVOLUTION BETWEEN THESE TWO STATES OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. INITIAL MOVE, OF COURSE, WAS IN 73-74 WITH MASSIVE PURCHASE BY LIBYA OF SOVIET ARMS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE KOSYGIN VISIT IN 1975, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOVIET-LIBYAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY IN EARLY 76 AND SOVIET-SUPPORT FOR LIBYA DURING RECENT TENSIONS WITH EGYPT. WE CONTINUE BELIEVE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION,

HOWEVER, FOR WARMING TREND IN SOVIET-LIBYAN RELATIONS  
IS CONTINUING LIBYAN EXCLUSIONS FROM MAINSTREAM OF MIDDLE  
EAST DEVELOPMENTS AND CONTINUED TENSION WITH EGYPT  
FOLLOWING RYAD AND CAIRO CONFERENCES. AMONG EAST  
EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS THERE IS SPECULATION THAT IN-  
ABILITY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH U.S. IS ALSO A  
FACTOR. FOR ALL OF THIS IMPROVEMENT, HOWEVER,  
SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN THE USSR  
AND LIBYAN WHICH INCLUDE LIBYAN OPPOSITION TO THE  
GENEVA PROCESS FOR MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, LIBYA'S  
CONTINUED SUSPICION OF BIG POWERS, AND LIBYA'S  
DESIRE TO ELIMINATE VETO IN THE UN. FINALLY QADHAFI'S  
ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM SHOULD PLACE SOME LIMITS ON  
RELATIONSHIP. WE SEE TWO EARLY RESULTS OF VISIT:  
EXPANSION OF SOVIET PRESENCE IN LIBYA FROM MILITARY TO  
ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS AND INFLATION OF  
QADHAFI'S CONFIDENCE FOLLOWING FLATTERING HIGH  
LEVEL ATTENTION IN MOSCOW.  
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